

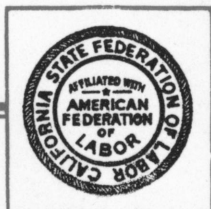
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

June 15, 1949

FEDERATION CONVENTION CALL ISSUED

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Convention Call for the 1949 Convention of the California State Federation of Labor was issued on June 15 to all affiliated unions. The convention will be held in the Shrine

Civic Auditorium, Los Angeles, August 29 through September 2 or 3, 1949.

VICIOUS ANTI-LABOR BILLS KILLED IN COMMITTEE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Launching what appeared to be a desperate, last-ditch attack directed toward forcing open-shop and other union-curtailling practices into the forefront of all collective bargaining negotiations, employers' representatives last week sought to bring their pet anti-labor bills out of committee, where these proposals have long been held in reserve.

One of these bills, AB 1369 (Levering), purports to deal with anti-featherbedding, while the other, SB 1110 (Rich), prohibits union security provisions between employees and contractors working on public construction projects.

Due to the clear and decisive objections to these far-reaching measures voiced by C. J. Haggerty and Charles P. Scully on behalf of millions of employees who have consistently enjoyed tremendous gains in wages and working conditions,

Last year's convention, with a record attendance of 2,000 delegates, gave labor in California an historic and monumental occasion upon which to organize and direct its campaign for political action in the 1948 elections. In the forthcoming convention, this campaign of political action must be continued and strengthened, and the convention must shape policies and make decisions of far-reaching importance on many matters. In the light of what is taking place in both Washington, D. C., and in Sacramento, it will have to lay definite plans for the 1950 Congressional and state elections.

The uncertainty of present economic trends and the increased unemployment throughout the state must also be faced and reckoned with. Experience has taught us that, during times such as this, only

ANTI-LABOR BILLS...

both directly and indirectly, from union activities, these two bills were defeated overwhelmingly on June 9.

AB 1369 was killed in the Assembly Committee on Industrial Relations by a vote of 7 to 2, with only Burke (Alhambra) and Levering (Los Angeles, 60) favoring the proposal. SB 1110 (Rich) received only one affirmative vote against 6 negative ones in the Senate Labor Committee.

The only important witnesses favoring the Rich bill, which could have interfered with over ninety percent of existing agreements in the contracting industry, were two brothers who were seeking part-time employment during about a two-month period each year, when they were not farming, and contended that their right to work on any project financed by government funds should never under any circumstances be impaired, notwithstanding any infringement that might thereby result on the prior rights to employment of hundreds of other workers whose sole occupation and means of livelihood would obviously be dependent upon employment on construction projects, whether privately or publicly financed.

Lobbyists supporting SB1110 implied that, if they had their way, the building of even as tremendous a structure as another bridge spanning San Francisco Bay should be undertaken apart from existing contracts between contractors and unions, which obviously have come to predominate on an industry-wide basis. The chaotic conditions of recruiting

labor for building purposes and other industrial activities, under this proposed legislation became so apparent to the Senate Committee that, after a full and complete hearing, they overwhelmingly voted down this unmitigated threat to accepted existing collective bargaining procedures.

CONVENTION...

strong and aggressive union policies can protect both organized and unorganized workers from the severe economic and legal pressures to which they are subjected.

This convention must therefore formulate a vigorous, statewide policy on union organization and collective bargaining. Only in this way can we meet with confidence whatever critical situation the future may hold.

For these reasons, and in order that the decisions of the convention may be well-conceived and representative of the aims and desires of labor throughout the state, we urge every affiliated organization to send delegates, who on their return, will fully explain the nature of the convention decisions to the membership of their respective locals and assist in carrying them out during the coming critical year.

In connection with the convention, all unions are urged to return to the Federation office:

(1) the original and duplicate AUTHORIZED DELEGATES forms; and

(2) the duplicate DELEGATE'S CREDENTIAL form.

This material should reach the Federation office as soon as possible for processing for the printer, and in any case cannot be accepted after August 20.

Resolutions should be presented in triplicate and should also be sent in as early as possible; in any case, they cannot be accepted after August 24, 1949.

Further details concerning the convention are included in the Call.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILLS

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Over the sole dissenting vote of Levering, the Assembly on June 13 passed Federation bill AB 327, to permit the payment of disability insurance during trade disputes. On June 10, the Assembly passed Federation AB 112, which removes the necessity of obtaining the consent of the employer when employees desire to enter a voluntary plan for disability insurance. The bill was passed by a vote of 46 to 18, with the following in opposition:

Babbage (Riverside)	Kirkwood (Saratoga)
Burke (Alhambra)	Reagan (Pasadena)
Butters (Brawley)	Silliman (Salinas)
Clarke (Planada)	Stanley (Balboa Island)
Connolly (San Francisco, 21)	Thompson (San Jose)
Erwin (Puente)	Levering (Los Angeles, 60)
Grunsky (Watsonville)	Lipscomb (Los Angeles, 56)
Hoffman (Acampo)	Stewart (Los Angeles, 47)
Huyck (Beverly Hills)	Waters (Los Angeles, 58)

On June 13, the Assembly Committee on Finance and Insurance crushed all hope for any major improvements in unemployment or disability benefits. Federation bill AB 181, which raised the maximum disability benefit to \$30 a week, was killed in committee by a vote of 6 to 6. The following voted in favor of the proposal:

Beck, Brady, Doyle, Dunn, Maloney and Meyers.

Grunsky was absent, and the other members opposed the bill.

The same committee was also unable to report out Federation AB 175, which, as amended, raises the maximum unemployment benefit to \$30 a week and reduces employer contributions under merit rating. The votes in favor of this bill in the committee were the same as on AB 181, except that Beck opposed AB 175.

SB 377 will come up for hearing in the Senate Committee on Social Welfare, June 15. As amended, this bill provides that voluntary disability plans shall cover all employees in the unit if 85 percent of the employees approve the voluntary plan. The bill also raises the maximum disability benefit to \$30 a week and makes other amendments.

Federation efforts to widen the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Act to extend coverage to nonprofit organizations, as provided in Federation AB 806, were thwarted on June 6 as a result of an active campaign by the affected organizations, and as a result, Assemblyman McMillan permitted his bill to be tabled.

A workmen's compensation bill, AB 2890, was unanimously approved in the Assembly June 10. This bill extends the period for payments in cases of permanent disability to 400 weeks.

AB 160, providing for equal pay for equal work, was killed in the Assembly June 13. This bill had previously passed the Assembly and been extensively amended in the Senate. The Assembly refused to concur in the amendments made by the Senate on the grounds that these

amendments would give too much legislative sanction to existing differentials based on sex. The vote was 46 to 8.

NEW WAGE-HOUR POLICY ISSUED ON "SHOW-UP"
AND "CALL-BACK" PAY

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--A general policy establishing a uniform application of overtime compensation requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act with respect to employment agreements providing "show-up" and "call-back" pay was adopted June 8 by the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions of the U. S. Department of Labor.

Under the new policy, pay for time not worked will be considered as a "fringe" benefit having no relation to earnings or hours. Only payment for hours actually worked will be considered in computing overtime compensation.

As generally used in industry, employment agreements provide that an employee will receive pay at his usual straight-time or overtime rate for a minimum number of hours upon "show-up" for work, even though the employer may not be able to provide work for the entire period and excuses the employee. Similar minimum payment assurances are made under agreements for the "call-back" of an employee, after his regular workday has ended and he has left the employer's establishment.

Under the new policy, an employee's regular rate of pay would be computed by dividing his actual earnings by his actual hours of work. The hours and pay covered by the "show-up" or "call-back" periods would not be considered. In the case of most incentive workers, this new method of computation will result in a higher regular rate of pay and thus will make it possible to obtain a higher rate of overtime pay, when overtime occurs.

SUMMER LABOR INSTITUTE TO BE HELD AT ASILOMAR

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--The Institute of Industrial Relations of the University of California, Los Angeles and Berkeley, is cooperating again with the California State Federation of Labor in sponsoring a Summer Labor Institute, to be held from August 14-20, 1949, at the Asilomar Hotel and Recreation Grounds on the Monterey Peninsula. Space is available for 131 members of organized labor.

This Institute is being presented in accordance with a resolution adopted unanimously by the Federation's 1948 convention, and it

is hoped that this Institute, like the one of last summer, will meet the long-felt need of the labor movement for additional information, training and education in collective bargaining, union organization, state and federal legislation, and political action.

Among the important speakers at the Institute will be Federation Secretary-Treasurer C. J. Haggerty, President John F. Shelley, and the Legal Counsel, Charles P. Scully. Other speakers and instructors will include distinguished public officials and University professors, both from the University of California and from other prominent universities throughout the country.

UNIONS URGED TO RETURN ORGANIZED LABOR QUESTIONNAIRE

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--"Replies to the Organized Labor Questionnaire for 1949 far exceed the number received at this time last year," it was announced today by Paul Scharrenberg, Director of Industrial Relations. Mr. Scharrenberg urged all unions which have not yet done so to make their returns promptly. It is hoped that a response from every union local in California can be received soon enough to be included in this year's survey.

"The response so far breaks all records," said Mr. Scharrenberg. "We believe it reflects a greater appreciation of the need for information as to the true status of organized labor in the State. The questionnaire has been simplified and shortened so that it can be completed in a few minutes' time by the local union secretaries. With their assistance, we can make our 1949 report a real census of organized labor in California."

Anti-labor forces in the state are collecting
hundreds of thousands of dollars

to fight labor-

Fight back-

Send in your Labor League for Political
Education contribution-

Three cents per month from each of the hundreds
of thousands of union mem and women in California
will do the job-